

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1184

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 6160

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, BL

SUBJ: PARTICIPATION IN SEMINAR AND AFL-CIO CONGRESS,
MARIO PAZ SOLDAN

REF: BUENOS AIRES 7425

1. EMBASSY DOES NOT OBJECT TO AFL-CIO OR OTHER NON-USG
INVITATION TO PAZ SOLDAN TO ATTEND SUBJECT CONGRESS PROVIDED
IT IS UNDERSTOOD USG NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY.

2. USG WOULD BE PLACED IN AWKWARD POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE
GOB IF IT BECAME KNOWN THAT THE USG HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN
FINANCING THE COSTS OF AN INVITATION TO THE US OF A PERSON SO
RECENTLY DECLARED BY THE GOB TO BE SUBVERSIVE. ALSO, WE
ASSUME THAT FOR A BOLIVIAN TO BE INVITED BY THE USG TO THE
SEMINAR, AT A MINIMUM HE OUGHT TO BE INVOLVED IN LABOR MATTERS
UPON HIS RETURN TO BOLIVIA. OBVIOUSLY, PAZ SOLDAN WOULD NOT
BE SO INVOLVED.

3. WE HAVE DOUBTS THAT PAZ SOLDAN WAS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN A
CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE GOB, BUT WE ARE LESS SURE THAT THE
CHARGES AGAINST HIM WERE "COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED." OUR MNR
CONTACTS TELL US HE IS A MEMBER OF THE PRIN, A LEFT-WING
BREAKAWAY FROM THE MNR HEADED BY JUAN LECHIN, AND, AS SUCH,
ALMOST BY DEFINITION A SUBVERSIVE IN THE EYES OF THE PRESENT
GOB.

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4. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION WHICH SUGGESTS PAZ SOLDAN WOULD BE INELIGIBLE FOR A VISA AND, IN FACT, WE BELIEVE BENEFITS TO THE US COULD ACCRUE IN DUE COURSE WERE HE TO VISIT US NOW. WHILE IT MIGHT BE MONTHS OR YEARS BEFORE HE IS ALLOWED BACK INTO BOLIVIA, UNDER ANOTHER REGIME IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO HAVE HIS FRIENDSHIP AS A LABOR LEADER.

5. THEREFORE, IF WAY CAN BE FOUND TO TAKE CARE OF PAZ SOLDAN WITHOUT USG-FINANCED PARTICIPATION, E.G., AFL-CIO FUNDING ALL HIS COSTS, WE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO HIS ATTENDING SUBJECT CONGRESS. HIS STATUS AS AN EXILE MAY MEAN THAT HE HOPES TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN US WHILE AWAITING A POLITICAL CHANGE IN BOLIVIA. IF WAY CANNOT BE FOUND TO FUND HIS TRAVEL VIA SOME NON-USG ROUTE, SUGGEST LABATT IN BUENOS AIRES SIMPLY STATE THAT SEMINAR IS FOR FOREIGN LABOR LEADERS INVOLVED IN ON-GOING LABOR WORK IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES. OBVIOUSLY, PAZ SOLDAN, INNOCENT OF THE SUBVERSIVE CHARGES THOUGH HE MAY BE, DOES NOT SO QUALIFY. WE REGRET THAT PAZ SOLDAN'S CHANGED STATUS COMPELS US TO RECOMMEND THAT THE EARLIER USG-FUNDED INVITATION BE WITHDRAWN, BUT GIVEN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SEE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE.
STEDMAN

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